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United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS RENOVATE TOWER CITY APARTMENTS

USDA Rural Development provided more than \$100,000 to Tower City Development Corporation

TOWER CITY, May 18, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider is in Tower City today attending the open house and tour of Tower City Development Corporation's multi-family housing project.

"Rural Development is pleased to partner with Tower City Development Corporation's modernizing of its multi-family housing project," said Jasper Schneider. "Quality housing options are a must in a community as it provides a desirable place to live and work."

Today's open house and tour will highlight the new one-bedroom accessible unit which was converted from a two-bedroom unit with some added living area.

The renovation project is for \$106,420 and is financed by USDA Rural Development through its Multi-family Preservation and Rehabilitation (MPR) loan and grant program. The MPR funding is used to preserve and revitalize existing rental housing projects financed by Rural Development. The program ensures that sufficient resources are available to preserve rental projects for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing.



Tower City Development Corporation housing units following a phase of renovations.

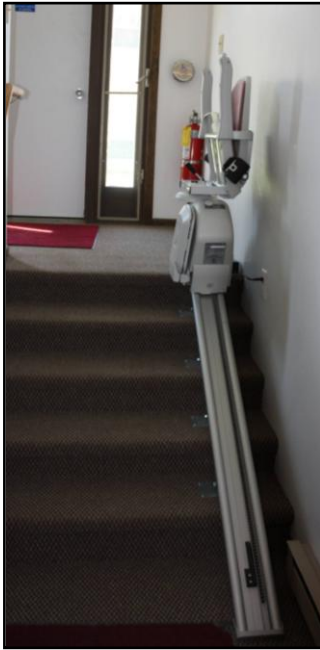
Tower City Development Corporation consists of four buildings with 15 two-bedroom units and a one-bedroom accessible unit. The buildings were constructed in 1974 and 1977 and are 100 percent occupied. Deb Schneekloth, project manager and bookkeeper, has been with the company since they opened their doors more than 30 years ago. Schneekloth was instrumental in the MPR application process and has taken charge in obtaining the bids, contractors and coordinating the renovation.



"Working with the staff at Rural Development was easy and very helpful," said Deb Schneekloth. "They were willingly available whenever we had questions or concerns during the renovation process."

Jasper Schneider, USDA Rural Development State Director (left), presented a certificate of appreciation to Debra Schneekloth, site manager and bookkeeper, recognizing her for her dedication and perseverance that resulted in obtaining sufficient resources to revitalize and preserve Tower City Development Corporation for the purpose of providing affordable housing. Her devotion, service, and caring for tenants exemplifies the spirit of Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing Program.

The renovations include constructing an accessible unit, parking space and accessible route, new siding, soffit and fascia, new windows and exterior doors, wall air conditioners in each unit, new kitchen and bathroom cabinetry; bath tubs and showers, new flooring throughout the buildings, and new appliances as needed.



Some of the new renovations (left and above) to the one-bedroom accessible unit include an electric chair lift for easier access in and out of the apartment, more bathroom space with an accessible sink, a “right height” stool, and a walk in shower.

The project is ongoing and is approximately 75 percent complete. Hott Concepts, Tower City, is the contractor.

For more information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

